

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 1214 by Representative White

HOMELAND SECURITY: Establishes an Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Provided that proposed law shall not be interpreted to impair the authority of a parish president during a declared emergency.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law enacts the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact, which provides for a system of intrastate mutual aid between parishes in the state for the prevention of, response to, and recovery from, any emergency disaster, in participating parishes. Further provides for mutual cooperation in conducting disaster related exercises, testing, or other training activities outside actual emergency periods.

Proposed law provides that parishes are not precluded from entering into supplemental agreements, nor does proposed law affect any other agreement to which a political subdivision may be a party.

Proposed law provides that with regards to immunity, the provisions of present law shall apply to personnel responding to requests for assistance.

Proposed law defines "first responder".

Proposed law establishes an Intrastate Mutual Aid Subcommittee and provides for membership and the appointment of the chairman. Further provides for reimbursement for travel expenses consistent with allowances for state classified employees to be approved by the chairman of the subcommittee.

Proposed law provides the subcommittee shall be responsible for reviewing the status of statewide mutual aid, assist in developing methods to track and evaluate the activation of the system, and to examine issues facing parishes regarding the implementation of this compact.

Proposed law requires that the subcommittee prepare an annual report on the condition and effectiveness of mutual aid in the state, make recommendations for correcting any deficiencies, and submit that report to the governor and the Joint House and Senate Select Committees on Homeland Security.

Proposed law provides that the subcommittee shall develop comprehensive guidelines and procedures that address certain requirements and shall be applicable to all parishes.

Proposed law authorizes a parish to request assistance of any other parish in preventing, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from emergencies or disasters in concert with authorized drills or exercises as allowed under the compact.

Proposed law requires all requests for assistance for the requesting parish to be made through the office of emergency preparedness and directed to the respective office of emergency preparedness of the responding parish. Further requires all requests to be in writing and reported to GOHSEP as soon as practicable.

Proposed law authorizes GOHSEP to request assistance from any parish for the purpose of establishing a pre-positioned cache of resources in order to expedite requests in the wake of an anticipated disaster and to also request resources from any parish in order to help fill

requests for assistance received from other states as part of a national mutual aid system.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall not be interpreted to impair the authority of a parish president during a declared emergency.

Proposed law requires GOHSEP in coordination with the Intrastate Mutual Aid Subcommittee, to develop guidance and procedures governing the implementation of proposed law in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Proposed law requires that when a person or entity who holds a license, certificate, or other permit issued by a parish or the state evidencing qualification in a professional, mechanical, or other skill and the assistance of that person or entity is requested by a parish, the person or entity shall be deemed to be licensed, certified, or permitted in the parish requesting assistance for the duration of the declared emergency or authorized drills or exercises and subject to any limitations and conditions the chief executive of the parish receiving the assistance may prescribe by executive order or otherwise.

Proposed law provides that personnel authorized by their employer to respond to an event who sustain injury or death in the course and scope of employment remain entitled to all applicable benefits normally available pursuant to their employment even though they may be under the direction and control of a different parish or other entity.

(Adds R.S. 29:739)